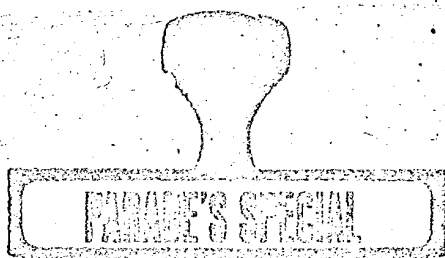


12 SEP 1971

EDITED
by LLOYD SHEARER

SCOOP Henry Kissinger's trip to mainland China to confer with Chou En-lai was a well-kept secret from the U.S. press but no big surprise to the readers of "The Amrita Bazar Patrika," one of Calcutta's leading morning newspapers.

On June 15, 1971, the Indian newspaper carried the following story with a New York dateline filed by Asia Features:

"A plan is taking dramatic shape at the White House for President Nixon to travel to Peking in the election year of 1972. That is the news Mr. Nixon's advisers have been leaking to selected reporters in the past few days. A theoretical outline of a China trip has been drawn up in the office of Henry Kissinger.

"Such a project would have seemed insane only a few weeks ago, but events are moving so fast that even the Rumanians who acted as Mr. Nixon's first diplomatic link with Peking think he may very well be able to pull it off."

On July 9th, 24 days later, Henry Kissinger and three aides landed in Peking where Kissinger proceeded to arrange Richard Nixon's impending visit to mainland China.